

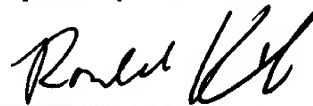
REMARKS

Applicants note that the USPTO Official Gazette Notice of September 23, 2003 directs Applicants having Non-Compliant Amendments that "[w]hen making corrections, applicant should just resubmit the needed corrected section(s), and correspondingly, should not resubmit the entire amendment document." As such, only the claims are presented herein.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



Ronald L. Kimble
Registration No. 44,186

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: January 21, 2004